MONTEREY NEWS

NOVEMBER 1997
VOLUME XXVII · Number 11

THE TOWN

Cleaning Up The Water. The Board of Health will conduct a public hearing Monday, November 3, at noon, with regard to the Water Resource Protection Regulations (WRPR) for septic and well construction. On July 28 of this year, the Board enacted the WRPR and amendments to existing town well regulations to require enhanced treatment and/or increased separation distances for all septic systems. This action was taken in response to Title V requirements passed by the state and enforced by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in March 1995.

Title V is praised by some for it's intention, but damned by others for it's expense and trouble caused to property owners. Its intention is to repair or replace failing systems which are, according to the DEP, a major cause of pollution to the state's coastal waters, rivers, and water supply. On the downside, property owners cannot sell or add to existing structures until their property is brought into compliance with the Title V code. Some believe it goes too far, particularly with the requirement of a four-foot separation between the bottom of the septic system and the seasonal high water table, which in this area can be high enough to necessitate some elevation of the ground level. DEP officials claim that the average cost for replacing septic systems is between $6,000 and $10,000 while others contend that costs can run much higher. At any rate, property cannot be sold until the requirements are met either by the seller or by a combined effort of buyer and seller.

Monterey has entered into loan programs, administered by the DEP, that are designed to help property owners make repairs or replace failing septic systems. One of these programs runs out in November. Information and applications are available in the Town Office.

©ELEANOR KIMBERLY

It's a long trip to the "frig." A red squirrel checks on the hidden harvest.

Effort to Correct Danger. On October 6, Dean Amidon of the Capital Highway Improvement Committee provided the Board with a copy of a letter sent to the State Highway Department, requesting assistance to the Town for resolving the danger at the intersection of Routes 23 and 57. The letter cited the close calls, the two recent serious accidents, and the report from the highway superintendent of having had to repair or replace forty two damaged signs within a year's time at this location. The Board discussed the possibility of obtaining an easement from a property owner to facilitate a safer merger of traffic.

Crossing Guard Eliminated. Also on October 6, the Board decided that as of October 31 crossing guards for the arrival of the school buses will be discontinued.

Apparently, at this time too few students boarding buses warrant the expense. The children will board and exit their bus on the Town Hall side of the road, thereby not necessitating their crossing Main Road.

On October 20 the Board met with concerned parents Melissa Mishcon, Peter Murkett, Michelle Miller, and Anita Cook. They brought a letter signed by seventeen people expressing "concern regarding the sudden removal of the Monterey crossing guard." Their apprehension was satisfied after the Board

explained the reason for discontinuing the crossing guard, and the new procedure for the children to exit the bus. They were also assured that if the ruling appears to be unwise, it can be rescinded. "It's not set in stone," said Board member Muriel Lazzarini.

Naughty! Naughty! Roger Trucking garbage collections in Monterey have not been going to the Transfer Station nor are they being recycled elsewhere. The Springfield Massachusetts Recycling Facility gives Monterey some compensation for our recycled garbage, and for all that is not recycled, an additional fee is paid. It's a lose/lose situation. The Board regrets that not all Monterey-ans are in the recycling spirit.

SBRSD Debt Tackled. The Southern Berkshire Regional School District has made serious cuts in the current budget to reduce the current year's deficit of $300,000 by $155,117. The past year's deficit of $600,000 made the total deficit close to a million. The state has intervened with $205.000 aid from its "pot hole" fund which will be applied to debt reduction. At this time, it appears that the district will appeal to the five towns at next year's May town meetings to eliminate the balance of the deficit. In the meantime, State Representative Chris Hodgkins is working with the state Department of Education to seek a solution.

Miscellany. The Planning Committee has endorsed a grant application to the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) to fund a master plan for the town. This plan would be prepared by Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission.

Maintenance Man Inc. of Hinsdale presented the best bid of $5,550 for the Town's 1989 GMC diesel one-ton truck with Fischer snow plow frame. Of the six bids received, this one was accepted.

Sealed bids for the sale of the town's 1964 Mack fire engine model C95 will be opened on October 27, at 8 p.m.

Board members Muriel Lazzarini and Fred Chapman unanimously elected Peter Brown to the position of Fence Viewer for a term ending June 30, 1998. He is already permanent chair of sign viewer.

— Jane Black

WINTER HOURS FOR THE TRANSFER STATION:

Sunday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

FIREMAN'S BLOTTER

Safely Heating With Wood

Autumn is here and with autumn comes cold nights and shorter days. For a lot of people, this heralds the beginning of the wood burning season. Here are several tips from the Monterey Fire Co. to help keep heating with wood safe. First, you want to prevent the build-up of creosote in your chimney. Creosote is a black tar-like substance generated by the combustion of damp wood or wood that contains a lot of resins and sap. Creosote then condenses on the inside of the cooler chimney and dries out producing a highly combustible material. To prevent creosote formation, use dry, well-seasoned hardwoods such as maple, oak, ash, etc., since these have much less of the creosote-forming compounds. Unseasoned (green or damp) hardwood and softwood (evergreens) have lots of resins and saps which readily produce creosote. Second, you want to remove any of last years creosote build-up. To do this, have your chimney cleaned by a chimney professional at the beginning of the season. This will dislodge creosote left over from your springtime fires. Third, know what to do if you have a chimney fire. Signs of a chimney fire include a roaring sound in the chimney, flame and/or ash spouting out of the top of the chimney, and possibly a glowing red-hot chimney. If you think you have a chimney fire, 1) use a Chimfex stick (available from a hardware store or certainly from a wood stove shop), 2) close off all of the air to your wood stove or, if you have a fireplace, douse the wood with water, 3) call the fire company by dialing 911 even if you think the fire is out. Burning embers spouted from the top of the chimney during a chimney fire can easily ignite your roof. We will be much happier to answer your questions, confirm the fire is out and that your house is out of danger, than to be called later to put out a fire in your house. If you have any questions about heating safely with wood, please call the Monterey Fire Co. Remember, for all fires, smell of smoke, smoke in your house, smell of gas, and other fire emergencies, dial 911 for the Monterey Fire Co.

During October and November, the Monterey Fire Co. is concentrating on fire fighting training which will culminate in a live fire exercise. Fire fighters will be working on quick hose line deployment and attack strategies, usage of air packs (self-contained breathing apparatus), search and rescue techniques, pump operation, and much more. This training is especially important because we have many new members. At the end of November, the fire company will burn a house which we have been hired to destroy. The Monterey Fire Co. will burn a building when it is available because it provides us with an excellent training opportunity (it is also far cheaper for the owner than physical demolition). By studying fire behavior and fire fighting techniques in a controlled situation, we are better equipped to safely and effectively extinguish the unwanted structure. If you have a building for demolition and want to consider burning it, contact the Monterey Fire Co.

— Del Martin

Christopher Blair
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NEW MARLBOROUGH CENTRAL AND MONTEREY SCHOOL

The Southern Berkshire Regional School District has been in the news a lot lately. Unfortunately it hasn't been good news. Workout teams are being formed and hopefully by the time you read this some acceptable solutions to the budgetary shortfalls (past and present) will exist.

Under the governing principle of Murphy's Law, the fifty year old stove at New Marlborough Central School (NMC) decided, without warning, to produce it's last hot lunch. According to my rough estimate that's about 9,000 lunches since it was first fired up. Cafeteria manager Anne Igoe-Dinan has been serving a revised cold lunch menu while she awaits a new convection oven and stove top. We hope that it will be up and running in time to produce hot meals for the cold days to come.

The Undermountain PTO extended a welcome invitation to NMC to enjoy a morning of Poetry In Motion. A Young Audience program, it was well received by the classes I saw.

The beginning of the school year is always fire prevention time, and NMC students were treated to a program complete with a hands-on tour of a fire engine.

PTA News. At the October meeting of the PTA, discussion centered around new and old fund-raising ideas. There are approximately fifty five tee-shirts available for purchase. Adult sizes are ten dollars, and students sizes are eight dollars. The recent wrapping paper fund-raiser netted just under $1500. This money all goes back to the schools, and in these times of budget cuts the value of the PTA, and what it does for the students, cannot be stressed enough.

— Deborah Mielke

RYDER RECEIVES NATIONAL ART AWARD

Lois Ryder of Monterey has received an Award for Excellence from The National Park Academy of the Arts, for her painting *Race Point, Cape Cod*. Her scratchboard art work was selected as one of the top one hundred paintings of the eleventh annual Arts for the Parks competition in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Mrs. Ryder is a member of the Copley Society of Boston, the Springfield Art League (California), the Kent Art Association, the Academic Artists Association, The National Museum of Women in the Arts, Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society of Washington, D.C., the Sheffield Art League, the Pittsfield Art League, and Miniature Art Societies. She has received numerous awards in juried art competitions and her paintings are in collections throughout the U.S. and abroad. Mrs. Ryder is listed in Who's Who in American Women, 1995-96.

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DISTRICT CONFRONTS BUDGET SHORTFALL

In his continuing effort to address the school budget deficit, superintendent of schools Dr. William Cooper held a public meeting on October 14, to consider the formation of a Debt Elimination Committee. The mandate of the proposed committee is to proceed with $600,000 in cuts to the school budget without adversely affecting school programs in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD). Additionally, it was proposed that in the future the committee would serve as a district-wide finance committee to work with the school committee on the budget.

While everyone acknowledged the benefits of a Debt Elimination Committee (DEC) to work on the current budget problems, the idea of the DEC becoming a district-wide finance committee received a tepid response from many in the audience. In the words of David Macy, select board member from Sheffield, "People are reluctant to add another layer of bureaucracy to the system." A majority of the audience preferred to use the current system whereby school board members communicate with the select boards and finance committees from within the five towns. Those in favor of a district-wide finance committee emphasized that such a committee would facilitate the budget-making process by having a financial representative from each town involved in the creation of the school budget.

Dr. Cooper solicited ideas from attendees about how to best deal with the budget crisis, stating in his meeting agenda, "The School district needs now, more than ever, financial guidance from people in a position to know the economic and political realities of the state and the local district." There were some suggestions for budget cuts. David Steindler, of Sheffield, recommended cutting energy costs, and questioned if the district is "top heavy" with administrators.

There was also discussion regarding how to structure the debt; should the district try to pay if off all at once, or over a period of years? Dek Tillet, an entrepreneur from Egremont, pointed out that in business debt is structured to be paid off gradually, so that the company may continue to operate successfully. Dr. Cooper also proposed that as part of the debt elimination program a special assessment of $200,000 be requested at the spring town meetings from the five member towns of the district. The discussion of a special assessment led several people at the meeting to emphasize that the school committee and the superintendent must work hard to restore the credibility of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to the member towns.

Larry Burke, of New Marlborough, offered a different perspective on the situation; "This could be a watershed moment for the school district. We could take this as a challenge, and an opportunity to really work together and improve the way that things get done in this school district."

After the meeting, school committee chair Jed Lipsky of Monterey, and member Lucy Prashker of Alford, reviewed the budget situation. Lipsky said that although the board believed there was mismanagement by the former administration, there is "no evidence of criminal wrong-doing." Prashker explained that $400,000 of the deficit was the result of flawed budget projections by the former administration in some categories of revenues and expenditures, combined with necessary expenditures for new teachers and paraprofessionals that could not be covered within the existing budget. The additional $205,000 is a one-time charge due to changes made in accounting methods. The SBRSD used to defer certain payments to the next fiscal year, and the new administration recommended that this practice be stopped.

Prashker went on to say that the school board had been informed by the previous administration that the district would end the year with a $70,000 surplus. First the school committee tried to find out the exact amount of the "surplus" for the new administration. Then, when Dr. Cooper assumed his post in July, the question regarding the budget surplus surfaced again. But after the annual audit began in August, it became apparent that instead of a budget surplus the district would be facing a deficit.

When questioned about the role of the school committee in the budget problems, Prashker said that the state mandate for the school committee is to hire and fire the superintendent, and to certify the budget. She explained that it would be impossible for school committee members to constantly check all the numbers that are presented to them by the administration. Lipsky concurred, "The former administration bears one hundred percent responsibility for this problem. These were highly paid administrators and they produced inaccurate reports and information." Prashker added, "We still must be able to trust the information that we get from management. That will not change." However, the school committee and the school administration have agreed to change how they proceed regarding the budget: in the future, the administration will submit quarterly reports to the school committee that show the actual expenditures in comparison to the projected budget.

The school committee has responded to the budget crisis by approving $200,000 in cuts to the current school budget. The measures include laying off a full-time custodian, a receptionist, and a copy machine attendant. Cuts have also been made in food service, supplies, and textbooks. Revenue will be raised by increasing the price of school lunches by twenty five cents for students and fifty cents for staff members. These actions, and what Prashker cited as the "Herculean efforts" of superintendent Cooper to secure state funding, have been rewarded. On October 21, State Representative Christopher Hodgkins, of Lee, announced that the SBRSD would receive $205,000 in state aid to help balance the budget, on the condition that the debt repayment plan be approved by all five towns in the district as well as the Department of Education.

In a later conversation, school committee chair Jed Lipsky spoke of how the SBRSD could make the best of a bad situation. "While this crisis creates a great deal of burden for the district, there is a silver lining. The combination of new administrators, and fiscal constraints to retire the deficit, has forced us to scrutinize and evaluate programs. The result of this will inevitably be higher efficiency and productivity by all staff."

— Maggie Leonard

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GRATEFUL FOR CARE

On August 27 I fell down a flight of stairs at my home on Lake Garfield. My leg was obviously injured and my husband called 911. Within three minutes, I was surrounded by at least fifteen emergency personnel; another five minutes and I was ready for the ambulance which arrived promptly and took me to Fairview Hospital. The emergency people were as gentle and kind as could be. They each greeted me with his or her first name, made sure I was comfortable, and acted with such professional expertise that I felt absolutely safe and secure. The ambulance driver and ambulance nurse worked with all prudent speed, and made sure I was aware of upcoming bumps and turns. This entire experience (would you believe it?) was pain-free, anxiety-free, and almost pleasant! I was seen in the emergency room where physicians, nurses, and technicians prepared me, examined me, and cared for me in the most gentle, professional manner. By 3:30, just fours hours after my fall, I was out of the operating room, in my hospital room, and on the way to recovery. My treatment had been excellent both physically, medically, and emotionally. I am most grateful for the wonderful care I received. Everyone involved in my case was absolutely fantastic. I thank you for all you did for me, and hope you always will receive such kindness when the need is there.

— Phyllis Cash

Vikki True and the Sweet Sisters of Mercy

IN CONCERT TO BENEFIT

THE MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Friday, November 7

8:00 PM

Adults $10
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at the Church

United Church of Christ

Sunday Service · 10 a.m.

(Child care available)

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Judy Hayes (Worship)	528-1874

With a prayer request or to join the Prayer Chain:

MaryKate Jordan	528-5557
Mary or Ray Ward	528-9243
Judy Hayes	528-1874

IN CELEBRATION: EVENTS AT THE CHURCH

Over the months, I have stressed the wish and need to have the church used for public events. Well, this month there will be three opportunities for you, and all your friends, to come to the Monterey United Church of Christ.

On Friday evening, November 7, at 8 p.m., Vikki True and the Sweet Sisters of Mercy will be in concert [see ad this page]. This popular local group performs a rousing selection of gospel and jazz tunes. True, "the last of the red-hot mammas", delivers her numbers with an infectious spirit that generates hand-clapping, toe-tapping enthusiasm. Everyone come out for a rollicking good time! Admission to the concert is ten dollars for adults, eight dollars for children and seniors. Proceeds will benefit the Monterey United Church of Christ.

On Sunday morning, November 23, at 10 a.m., there will be an Interfaith "Thanksgiving Service." In the past, these Interfaith services have been wonderful occasions for celebrating our diversity.

On Saturday, November 29, at 7:30 p.m., Hilltown Productions presents an evening of acoustic music "in the round" [see ad facing page]. Musicians John Humphrey, Anson Olds, John Sellew, and Rick Robbins will perform a selection of original music, traditional songs, and bluegrass and Irish fiddle tunes. The term "in the round" originated in the clubs of Nashville, Tennessee, and allows musicians to swap tunes, as well as spontaneously jam and harmonize with each other. Bring your Thanksgiving guests, and come out for a fun-filled evening of excellent music.

These are three great opportunities for you to come to support the church, and hear and participate in some wonderful events. For more information call: 528-5850.

— Keith Snow, Pastor
Monterey Church of Christ

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	7–9 p.m.

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VET'S COMMITTEE NEARING GOAL

Great News! The Veteran's Memorial fund drive goal of $20,000 has almost been reached. As of September twenty third, $18,200 has been raised. The flag pole and the main monument, with its large foundation, have been installed. Two smaller monuments for World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, with the names of Monterey Veterans inscribed, have been ordered. Very shortly the foundations for these monuments and also for a third monument will be in place. The third monument will include all wars prior to World War I, with corresponding names of Monterey Veterans. As soon as the names are compiled this monument will be ordered.

The Veterans Memorial committee is striving to complete the Memorial Park project during this calendar year. An additional $1800 is required to complete the campaign, and we are hoping that your generous contribution will help us reach our goal of $20,000. Please make your check payable to Monterey Veterans Memorial in care of the Town Treasurer, Monterey MA. We will have a beautiful monument to our veterans that all Montereyans will be proud of. Remember, "T'is the people who make the place." Thanks so much for your support.

—Dean P. Amidon
Chair Veterans Memorial Committee

BACK TO THE WORLD

One Vietnam Vet

Editor's note: This short biography and the accompanying poem appeared in the Berkshire Eagle on September twenty seventh. It was a part of the "Days Of Rememberance" special supplement, which was published in conjunction with the Vietnam Veteran's Moving Wall exhibit.

Elmer Johnson was a BCC student on Second Street [in Pittsfield] in the fall of 1968. Three days after he dropped out for financial reasons, he was drafted. A Monterey resident at the time, he returned there to work with his family at Gould Farm. Johnson attended UMass from 1971-1975. With help from the Pittsfield Veterans Community Care Center, he learned that he had been struggling for years with service-connected Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), the healing process of which is still ongoing. He also suffers from peripheral neuropathy as a result of his service in Vietnam. Vocational rehabilitation funds have allowed him to return to BCC, with a goal of becoming a social worker. This poem was written for a friend in the service, "to impress his high school girl friend back in Michigan." It was published in the girlfriend's local newspaper.

RICOCHET EYES

by Elmer W. Johnson

P.F.C., U.S. Army, 3rd of the
82nd Artillery
Vietnam 1968-1969

Looking into those ricochet eyes;
trying to find a reason
not to hide;
from the reality of fears;
that still exist inside.
The mirror reflects the
thousand yard stare;
while protecting the visions from
people who didn't know or care.
Defending the conscience
of unreasoned warfare;
behind those eyes of
ravaged despair.
To see is to see
when not being blind,
but to hide the pain and rage
to keep life in line.
Repressed depression imbedded
deep within;
a passion looking for an
agenda;
permitting only a glance
into those eyes of tension.
If someone were to see
beyond the powers of convicted
lies.
They may see the truth behind
those ricochet eyes.

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150TH COMMITTEE ADJOURNED UNTIL 2047

The Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee held its last meeting on October 7 at the Town Hall, and adjourned until the year 2047. However, there are persistent rumors that at the Monterey kindergarten, a clandestine meeting was observed, where students were discussing plans for the Bicentennial. So, be warned, there are only forty-nine years for you to plan your summer vacation schedule, in order to volunteer for the celebration.

After a financial report from Jack Ryder [see article this page], discussion turned to the creation of a time capsule. Gige O'Connell has volunteered to put together a time capsule to be opened at the Bicentennial Celebration. (I told you, the 200th celebration is already in the works.) O'Connell is putting together a group to work on the project.. The meeting ended with the committee thanking committee chair Ray Tryon for his leadership.

The value of a major celebration, like the Sesquicentennial, is hard to measure or quantify. The intangible benefits evolve over time. The history of our town is a unifying chain of people and events, which make up the present town. The Sesquicentennial celebrated our role in that chain. Identifying with the town, through its past, encourages participation in the town's future. Expanded personal friendships between members of the community, established while working on the Celebration, come alive in casual conversations at the Post Office, the General Store, or elsewhere. New and expanded relationships encourage productive discussion and compromise , when there is a school budget crisis, a tax or zoning issue, or other town problems that must be considered.

The Planning Committee would like to thank the many individuals who gave so freely of themselves, their resources and their time, in a commitment to the future of the Town.

— Ian Ross Jenkins
Sesquicentennial Planning Committee

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150TH ANNIVERSARY FINANCIAL REPORT

The final meeting of the Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee was held to wrap up loose ends, assemble a complete list of all the volunteers, and review the latest financial report prepared by the town accountant, Barbara Gauthier.

A summary of the appropriations and expenditures shows that we came within $3,295 of the projected budget. The Town appropriated a total of $55,000. for the anniversary celebration through one annual town meeting and two special town meetings, and also established a revolving fund. Expenditures for souvenirs, the anniversary ball, the pancake breakfast, the gazebo, the picnic tables, and the banner were $57,155. The gazebo and picnic tables were $8080 and $1005, respectively, and are considered an investment that the town will use for many years to come. Subtracting these two items gives us an expenditure of $48,070. The revenue generated from book sales, souvenirs, the anniversary ball, the pancake breakfast, and donations was $42,775. The committee expects approximately $2000 or more will be generated from future sales of souvenirs and books before the end of the fiscal year (June 1998).

When reviewing the above figures and looking back at the great time had by all that attended the Memorial Day Parade and the 150th Celebration, the $3295. was a small price to pay.

— John Ryder
Sesquicentennial Planning Committee

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

at the Monterey General Store:

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WHEN THERE'S NO "CARE" IN HEALTH CARE

Coincidences take an eerie form in my life. The latest of these occurred in Pittsfield Superior Court on Tuesday, October fourteenth, where I witnessed, quite by accident, the opening argument for plaintiff Bob Thieriot's case against a New York-based HMO, Community Health Plan or CHP.

The impersonal sound of that name is a clue to the case. While a Pittsfield-based neurologist, a cancer doctor from Albany Medical Center, and AMC itself are also being sued (after this writing, the neurologist settled out of court for an undisclosed amount), what is on trial here is modern health care. The indignities that happen when a bureaucracy that doesn't know who's on first makes the intimate decisions regarding the healing of our bodies - and which may ultimately decide whether we live or die - is what is really on trial.

Many people in Monterey knew Janet. I did not. She died in 1989, when my only connection to Monterey was the goat cheese I sold in a gourmet store in Boston. But I feel a kinship with her now. Like Janet, I am a journalist (she was editor of the newspaper at Mount Everett) and love children. Like Janet, I was diagnosed with cancer. Unlike Janet, I survived the indignities that she suffered at the hands of an HMO. Mine was in Boston, her's here, but we were both misdiagnosed, and our symptoms ignored.

Bob's lawyer, Alice Richmond, recounted how Janet's pain became so severe that Bob took her to the emergency room at Fairview Hospital, where, without any fancy testing, her cancer was discovered. Doctors could feel this girl's soccer ball-sized tumor because they examined her. That's it. They touched her. Somebody slowed down long enough to pay attention to her and examine her.

I, too "got lucky" as Bob's lawyer put it, at Fairview Hospital. Luckier than Janet, as I was treated, closely followed, and lived to tell this story. I got my care there six months after I moved to the area, and was no longer on Harvard Community Health Plan. Janet got sucked back up into her HMO's bureaucracy and didn't. True, her cancer was a rare form of pediatric cancer and mine was the more everyday variety. But still. Her journals recount the most insensitive treatment even after her cancer was discovered.

I was treated with kid gloves at Fairview. If anyone thinks we can do without Fairview, they don't know what they're throwing away. It may be due to its small size, but the staff there treated me, without exception, like I was a member of their immediate family. I was given the support, comfort and deference that anybody facing treatment for a terminal illness deserves. I was horrified when I heard that Janet had medical students probing her when she was trying to rest, among other things. Despite the fact that my cancer should have been detected sooner, I somehow feel it was a blessing that I got my care here.

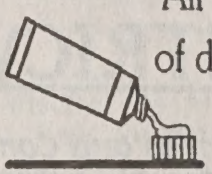
So how did I end up in court? I teach legal office procedures at a business school in Pittsfield. I take my students to court at some point during the term. The day before I planned to go, I checked with the office and heard that there was a malpractice case starting. It was quite a shock when we arrived and I saw the man whose corn I ate this summer sitting alone in the gallery.

We first sat through the jury selection. My students heard someone comment on the "parade" of lawyers for all of the defendants, both inside the bar and out, some just observing the proceedings. This case is groundbreaking for Massachusetts, because, according to the *Berkshire Eagle's* Ellen Lahr, "a victory could set new case law for Massachusetts..." Nationally, there have been a number of multi-million dollar judgments against health maintenance organizations that have refused to authorize referrals and other medical care for patients. Legal ground has yet to be broken in Massachusetts on this matter. The issues revolve around the extent to which HMO's are liable for the conduct of doctors affiliated with them, a phrase legally defined as "vicarious professional liability."

I won't belabor the particulars of the case. Ellen Lahr has been doing a fine job with that. But I will tell you that when patients are held at arms distance away from their health care providers, this is what results. If I have learned anything about healing, and I have made it a study of late, it is that healing is an interaction between doctor/healer and patient. Good care is responsive care, whether it is done by a medicine man or an M.D. This care is the very thing threatened with extinction by the fifteen minute visit and bonuses for doctors who don't order diagnostic tests, which has been documented at other HMOs. When care decisions are made by people who haven't even seen or examined the patient, the patient becomes a commodity instead of a sacred trust.

—Laura Gaccione

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist



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Deadline for submissions is January 30, 1998.

UPON MY WORD!

It is interesting to see how many New England cities are named for English cities which, in turn, were named for those Roman military camps set up by the ancient Roman Empire a few centuries before Christ. These cities all ended in the word *castra* which became -caster or -chester in English. Thus we have Manchester, Winchester, Lancaster, Doncaster, Dorchester, Chester, Worcester, Leicester, Rochester, Gloucester, to name a few. So next time you are dialing someone in one of these places, just imagine a Roman soldier having to prop his shield and spear, to keep them from falling, while he answered the phone! Or perhaps a Julia or Olivia would answer in Latin. England didn't even exist, and the exchange would be Britannia (IV I III) V II VIII - VI VII X V!

—Alice O. Howell

THE FORGOTTEN LANGUAGE TOUR

The Orion Society is a non-profit organization, publisher, environmental education organization, and communications and support network for grassroots environmental organizations in the United States. The Orion Society has published *Orion Magazine* for fifteen years, and now also publishes *Orion Afield*, a journal of environmental activism. In 1996 the organization moved form New York City to Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

For six years, The Orion Society has presented The Forgotten Language Tour, a series of readings by leading nature writers and poets. These events are designed to promote nature literacy — a deeper, more dynamic and creative understanding of our relationship with the natural world.

During the week of November 8 through 15, The Forgotten Language Tour will come to the Berkshires for a week of free public readings, beginning at the United Church of Christ in Monterey, on November 8, at 8 p.m. Featured for that evening will be leading nature writers Ann Zwinger and Scott Russell Sanders. Zwinger has published thirteen books, including *Beyond the Aspen Grove; Land Above the Trees*, which was nominated for the National Book Award for Science, and *Run River Run*, which received the John Burroughs Medal in 1976. Scott Russell Sanders has published fifteen books including a book of personal essays, *The Paradise of Bombs* (1987), which won the Associated Writing Programs Award for creative nonfiction, and *Staying Put* (1993), which won the 1994 Ohioana Book Award in nonfiction.

The Forgotten Language Tour will stop at other venues in Berkshire County: on November 10, at 7:30 p.m., Williams College, Griffin Hall, room three; November 12, at 7 p.m., the Sportsman's Club, Route 102, Stockbridge; November 13, at 7:30 p.m., auditorium, Berkshire Museum, 39 South Street, Pittsfield. On November 15, from 1-4 p.m. at the Welles Gallery in the Lenox Library, there will be a reception and book signing for an exhibit of award-winning photography by Sonja Bullaty and Angelo Lomeo. Any questions? Please call The Orion Society at 528-4422, ext. 15.

— Diana Downing
The Orion Society

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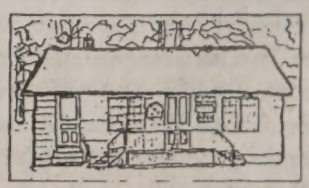

CET NEWS

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) will be providing solid waste management assistance in the four Western Massachusetts counties through an $83,000 grant from USDA Rural Development. The "Targeted Solid Waste Education and Assistance for Rural Communities" program will help towns with fewer than 10,000 residents divert waste from landfills and combustion facilities through waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.

"We are finding that public interest in waste reduction and recycling continues to grow. Improving how we manage our waste is something that more and more people want to do. CET strives to provide easy and practical steps for households, businesses, and communities," said Laura Dubester, CET director.

Highlights of the program include helping communities meet eligibility criteria for the State's new Municipal Recycling Incentive program, providing educational outreach to help residents reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, and buy recycled products, as well as assisting towns with household hazardous waste collection days. Plans for this coming year include coordinating reusable latex paint collections, in conjunction with household hazardous waste days, for the Tri-town Health Department and Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District.

The grant also provides assistance to the Western Massachusetts Materials Exchange program. The Materials Exchange is a matchmaking service that connects businesses disposing of reusable materials and by-products, with others that can use them. Over 500 tons of materials have been diverted from disposal and reused to help reduce purchasing and disposal costs for participating businesses.

CET plans to educate and encourage residents to increase their purchases of products with recycled content. Buying products containing recycled material can help increase demand for the paper and containers that residents currently recycle. CET will also help promote Massachusetts Recycles Day on November 15. This event, which is part of a national educational effort, is designed to raise awareness about the benefits of "buying recycled."

CET will also provide education and hands-on technical assistance to help rural towns manage their waste. Already, CET has been working with communities and solid waste districts to help them meet the criteria for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) new Municipal Recycling Incentive program (MRIP). In order to encourage towns to increase their recycling rate, the program will provide payments to towns based on the amount of materials they recycle.

"It is important that we provide our rural communities with the resources they need to reduce waste and promote the environment," said U.S. Rep. John W. Olver (D—First District). "This CET grant will make such tools available to communities in Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties, providing residents and local businesses with the services they need."

For more information, call Sherill Baldwin at CET at (413) 445-4556 or 1-800-238-1221. The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) is a non-profit energy/resource conservation and solid waste management organization serving western Massachusetts, with offices in Northampton and Pittsfield.

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DOWN IN THE HOLE

Speaking of Flamenco pouring
some previous year's harvest
there's Miriam, so sweet, in black
who says, "New York is like a man..."
but what she really means is:
this world survives on tenderness
then this plant walk by in high heels
with legs like no philodendron
reminding us of mortality
and
we better dance while we can
flaming maples in October winds
no wonder the gods are jealous
obsessed with immortality
because death is, life is precious!
Shaman of the contracted selves
in your hilarious healing
(ladybugs form constellations on the sad ceiling of our sins)
these are days of honest omens
and
we better dance while we can
you work like a highland beaver
to get black radish to taste sweet
as Miriam pouring autumn
fresh and eager as the new moon
in delirious afternoons
to draw a curtain on the night
though still a bit of bitterness
it's medicinal reality
is your own farm ecology (pharmacology?)
and
we better dance while we can
we're all addicts in varied style
hooked on one thing or another
for me it's black spanish leather
pouring into November
the last remnants of abundance
'til all about is nakedness
no masks and no obscurities
'til tenderness is what remains
sweet Miriam in the darkness
and
we better dance while we can
confess and stretch into the sun
bare your tender mortal chest
only now is our precious chance
no wonder the gods were bared
with no edges to ride upon
Miriam asks into the night
"is there anything else you want?"
bittersweet radish, spanish wine,
a winter full of tenderness
and
we better dance while we can

— R. Zukowski

©ROBIN HUMPHREY

THE PASTOR'S PASTORALE

Or were there time enough
to sleep and dream
and mull the mind
on things as they might seem—
but, no
we plod
(and stumble on our guilts)
to God.

How simple then to walk the night
and touch the stars of taste the dew,
smile at such gifts
and count ourselves among the few
who yes
who pray
yet kiss
and sing to others what they miss:
It's this! It's This!

— A. O. Howell

The last chord.
The final movement.
Summer's symphony
Has swelled, crashed,
Is fading,
In each luminous note,
Tumbling bright echos
Burning, drying, dying,
To brittle-brown stillness

Yet still I hear
A sound,
Sensual, sustained.
A spent, ecstatic whisper
Still remains.
A lingering memory
Of mad wild music
Frantic, fertility
The soft peal of a bell
Rings through the hills
Over and over
Like the sigh of a sated lover

— Nick Hardcastle

IT'S OCTOBER

The sun is warm in the azure sky,
Blue asters nod as the winds pass by,
And here and there birds congregate
To plan their trip to some southern state
While milkweed seeds on silken threads,
By autumn winds tossed from their beds,
Go darting, sailing, far and wide
Like butterflies over the countryside.
Sprite squirrels are gathering in their store
To last until spring comes once more.
The multicolor hillsides gay
Their robes must doff and cast away.
It's October!

The clear night air is growing chill,
We hear no more the whip-poor-will;
The Harvest moon is smiling down
On rustling corn shocks crisp and brown
And somewhere, hidden from our sight
A chirping cricket greets the night;
An owl "Whoo Whoo's" in an old oak tree,
Another replies from over the lea
Startling the leaves that still hang on.
Where, oh where has the summer gone?
It's October!

— Eleanor Kimberly

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WILDLIFE SURVEY

The roadsides. As of October 9, the notable thing was the flamboyant fall color, really hitting it's stride. After the sugar maples lit up, gold, orange, and scarlet, the yellows of poplar and birch followed. Ash starts a soft fawn-like yellow that ripens into a rich bronze, starting at the top of the tree. Young maples, like gaudy adolescents, break out in full color while the mature trees are still a sober green. Red maples live up to their name with, overall, the darkest red around. Their individual leaves, however, glow with subtle jewel-like combinations: the base still green, the veins yellow, the rest rich red on the upper side and perhaps dusky purple on the underside, and, of course, no two alike!

Red berries. The black alders or bear berries, are loaded with the brightest of red berries, shining among the small yellow-green leaves. After a few hard frosts the leaves will drop and the berries will continue bright for much of the winter, contrasting handsomely with the black twigs and branches. That's when the bushes earn their name, "winter holly." As for the bears eating them, I doubt it, having tried one, once, to my sorrow, years ago. Barberries are green and yellow now, getting ready to be bright red next month. The seed clusters of jack-in-the-pulpit are luminating practically on the ground, since the rest of the plant has all but disappeared. The tight fist-sized bunch of fifty or sixty berries rivals anything else on the fall color palette. Checkerberries, (wintergreen) and partridge berries are almost as bright, but are smaller and dispersed over wide areas on single stems or, rarely, two or three on a stem.

Wild turkeys. This magnificent bird, long extinct in the Berkshires until reintroduced in the thirties and forties, is now abundant and very much at home. They are more evident in the fields and crossing the roads now than they were all summer. They are living high now, on acorns, and I've seen them competing with crows for grasshoppers. Dale Duryea has had them in his barn taking grain away from the horses. A flock of fourteen have been making a regular circuit across his land for the past two weeks.

Canada geese. This is the time of the high, huge flocks, several in a day, flying south and southwest. Their aerodynamically efficient formations and their haunting bugling stir the heart. More and more of them are finding ways to stay all winter; the Fish and Game people instituted a September early goose hunting season to encourage the surviving locals to become migratory again.

Dale Duryea's observations: Unusual number of mallards and a kingfisher in Parker's Cover; a doe with two fawns still with her, in his meadow, the night of October 6; a red fox hunting the field at Barnum's Flats; mink tracks along the river road over towards Clayton; tracks and empty clam shells showing where raccoons are taking advantage of the Lake Garfield drawdown; cottontails have been scarce all summer.

A fall fragrance. Beryl and David McAllester noticed a heady mixture of hay-scented fern and the lemony odor of witch hazel blossoms, on the north side of Benedict Pond, October 7. The latter bloom from September into November (!) and the seed capsules can project a seed as much as fifty feet from the parent shrub.

A calendrical list: beechdrops, September 22; a lone yellow hawkweed blooming as though it were early summer, September 28; a scattering of myrtle blossoms, fulfilling their promise to keep going all summer, October 1; wood aster and New England aster, brightening the roadsides and woods, as they have week after week, October 7; three wood ducks, rising almost silently from the McAllester's pond October 9.

— David McAllester

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THE WOOLLY BEAR'S MESSAGE

This is a confusing time of year! After a busy summer we return to the workaday realities of fall. For families with kids, the school schedule is back in place, the ballet lessons, soccer practice, piano. Days are noticeably shorter now, encouraging reasonable periods of rest, sleep. We get a glimpse of that New England myth, the fabled "long winter's evening." We go to the library and check out fat novels, prematurely.

At the same time that we are modifying our behavior in a north temperate direction, we get these balmy Indian summer days, full of dazzling color. The local hiking trails call us out and sunny patches in the orchard sing to us at midday: "Come lie here in the sun— just for a few minutes." We are getting a carpe diem message which speaks to the grasshopper in us all and says don't forget how to play, stop your labors and notice the sunshine.

As we sort through the confusing mixed messages of mid-October, we might do well to watch where we step. On every footpath, driveway and interstate highway these days we can find the woolly bear. She is small, generally no more than an inch and a half long, and for her size she is racing, making about four feet per minute on her six true legs and ten stubby prolegs. If you pick her up she won't hurt you, but will curl nearly into a ball and slide off your hand if you are not careful. Her short bristly hairs let her skitter off any flat surface which is not level, and if she falls to the ground they cushion her fall. In a few seconds she will be up and running again.

You might wonder where a little caterpillar is going in such a hurry. We don't see this kind of behavior in the summer. In fact, we don't particularly see the woolly bears at all. They are not pests of garden or orchard, so we don't notice them feeding. Now their feeding time is about over and they are searching, frantically it seems, for a suitable hibernaculum, or place to spend the winter.

These racing woolly bears are the second generation of 1997. They will crawl under some piece of bark or log or rock, and rest at last, all systems slowed nearly to stop until the spring. Then they will emerge briefly and spin a cocoon of silk, woven together with their own short hairs. After two weeks in the cocoon the tiny bear emerges again, this time reorganized into a flying tiger. Woolly bears are the larval form of the tiger moth, of which there are 3,500 different species, many with colorful hind wings that have yellow or orange patches and black lines, like a tiger. They keep their colors hidden beneath drab brown forewings, hiding in camouflage against their background. If danger threatens, say in the form of a hungry blue jay, the tiger flashes its warning colors.

If the blue jay has ever sampled a tiger moth before, it will heed the warning: this is a moth with a chemical defense system. Tiny drops of yellow toxic liquid ooze from two openings behind the collar when the tiger moth is threatened. For those predators against whom these poisonous secretions are not enough, the tiger moth has another secret weapon. On either side of the metathorax there is a device called the timbral organ which makes very high-pitched clicking sounds which are actually capable of jamming the echolocation of hunting bats.

Tiger moths are nectar-eaters, visiting various flowers. The females become so heavy with eggs that they don't fly as much as the males do. After mating, she lays her eggs in clusters on certain plants and in a few days the first generation of little woolly bears hatches. They nibble the leaves where they have hatched and grow quickly to their full woolly bear size, up to two and one-eighth inches long, and spin cocoons in protected places. The adult tiger moths which emerge lay eggs which hatch to form the second generation, or fall woolly bears.

If you bring one of these busy fall bears into your kitchen and put her in a jar you will only confuse her. She knows what she is about, on some clear instinctive level, and should be left alone to do it. In the spring, as early as March, you may see her again. This would be the time to put her in a jar and watch her make her cocoon. You won't have to worry about what to feed her, and when the moth emerges, just let it go. Its path is always clear, its next job just around the corner.

As for us, we often look to the woolly bear for predictions of winter weather, as if this will make some difference to how we behave now. We tell our children, "Ah— see the woolly bear is nearly all black, with only a small band of orange. This means we'll have a hard winter." Then what do we do? Cancel our hike and get busy on the woodpile? We might do well to look to the woodpile no matter what the woolly bear looks like. Her banding bears no relation to the winter to come but changes according to her stage of development. Some little bears are all black, some all orange. You can see them both in the same fall.

So what should we do in October? It's the age-old human dilemma—if we were woolly bears we wouldn't have to ask. The only thing she can tell us for sure is, "winter is coming." Being human, we have a range of responses to this news. My solution is always to attempt to do everything at once: go for a hike, get the potatoes in, work on the woodpile, lie in the sun. I must look a lot like the woolly bear, scurrying along the paths and highways in October. Like her, I know I have to hurry. Unlike her, I am burdened with such a big brain I can't tell for sure where I should be hurrying to.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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REP RAP

Once again, Blue Cross and Blue Shield is attempting to raise rates for Medex policies. These policies are a necessity for many older residents in Berkshire County who can not afford the gap in coverage left by their Medicaid policies. Medicaid only covers eighty percent of medical bills and does not cover prescriptions.

Currently, Blue Cross's Medex rates are the highest in the state for medi-gap coverage. Furthermore, despite a number of health maintenance organizations competing with Medex in other areas of the state, it is often the only medi-gap policy available to Berkshire County residents. Therefore, they are forced to either accept the rate increase or go without vital medical coverage.

On October 10, I submitted testimony before the Commissioner of the Division of Insurance, Linda Ruthardt, declaring Blue Cross's actions unconscionable. This attempt at another increase is an assault on the well being of senior citizens. They are asking for increases of twenty to thirty seven percent, depending on the specific policy. That could reflect an increase of as much as fifty dollars a month for a Medex Gold policy.

Blue Cross claims the increase is warranted because they lost 28,000 subscribers last year due to competition. I argue that they lost their subscribers because of last year's exorbitant rate increase. Last time I checked, the only way to compete effectively was to offer a quality product at a fair price. Common sense dictates that raising Medex rates will only serve to hurt their subscribers and promote further migration to their competition.

I have also demanded that Commissioner Ruthardt hold a public hearing in Berkshire County on this proposed rate increase. Berkshire County residents have unique situations due partially to a lack of competition in medi-gap coverage. The Commissioner needs to be aware of the impact Blue Cross's actions will have on our older population.

Blue Cross's policies are regulated in Massachusetts so those who need the added protection of more thorough medical coverage can reasonably afford it. If Blue Cross suffers from poor judgment in their management strategies, then perhaps they should reconsider management salaries and bonuses before raising the burden on our senior citizens.

Blue Cross is forcing people to choose between food, heat and medical coverage. Our senior citizens deserve better, and I will continue to fight for quality, affordable health care, by continuing to demand an end to this obscene attempt to take advantage of a population struggling to survive on fixed incomes.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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SENATOR SAYS

Fall is one of the nicest times of year, so it was the perfect time to unveil the new sign telling Turnpike motorists that they have arrived in "The Berkshires." Congratulations to George Wislocki for bringing this beautiful hardwood sign to the Berkshire landscape.

Senate Ways and Means appointment. The Senate President asked me earlier this month to serve on the Senate Ways and Means Committee which is responsible for developing the Senate's recommendation for the Commonwealth's budget. This is a tremendous opportunity for me to advocate for economic development and job creation, senior citizen initiatives, downtown redevelopment and cultural enhancement programs. I look forward to bringing increased support to the district for local projects and programs. I will continue to serve as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Election Laws, and as a member of the Banks and Banking; Human Services and Elderly Affairs; and Local Affairs Committees.

New law lowers 1998 unemployment insurance rate. I am pleased to report that the legislature has resolved the impasse regarding the unemployment insurance rate. The compromise, which was approved by the Senate and House, and signed into law by the Governor on September 23, 1997, will reduce by twenty percent the unemployment insurance rate paid by employers, reducing the average cost per employee from $488 to $400. This compromise will help keep employers rates down, while protecting worker benefits in the event of an economic downturn. Prior to this reduction, Massachusetts had the second highest unemployment insurance rates in the country.

Massachusetts Cultural Council in Berkshire County. On November 13, Mary Kelley, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), will visit the Berkshires to present an update on current MCC activities, and to gather input from people interested in the arts. This forum presents an excellent opportunity for art lovers in western Massachusetts to find out how the MCC allocates its resources, and about cultural projects which may be of interest. The forum will be held at the Berkshire Museum, 39 South Street, Pittsfield from 5-6:30 p.m.

ATM surcharges banned by the Senate. As a member of the Banks and Banking Committee, I have been following the issue of ATM surcharges closely. Many banks charge a user fee to their account holders who utilize an ATM (automatic teller machine) owned by another bank. This fee is usually split between the bank where the account is maintained, and the bank which owns the ATM. The Banks and Banking Committee issued a favorable recommendation on a bill which would bar a second fee from being imposed by the bank which owns the ATM. Because Massachusetts is in a unique situation where two banks own more than sixty percent of cash machines in the state, many smaller banks were advocating on behalf of the ban. The Senate unanimously endorsed the ban on September 30, 1997 and the bill will now proceed to the House for consideration.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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THE FAMILY NETWORK

Programs and Calendar

The Family Center is located at 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington; call 528-0721 for more information. All activities are at the Family Center, unless otherwise noted.

Jodi Tuller, PNP, Center for Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care, has organized an attention deficit disorder parent education group, which will begin meeting on November 6, at 6:30 p.m., on the fourth floor of Fairview Hospital. The six programs planned include: "Information about area resources for families of children with ADHD" led by Jodi Tuller, on November 6; "What is ADHD?" led by Jodi Tuller, on November 13; "Medication therapy for ADHD" led by Dennis Tresp, M.D., on November 20; "Social skills and ADHD" led by Roberta Russell, MSW, LICSW, on December 4; "Educational strategies for high school and beyond" led by Nancy Hale, Ph.D., educational consultant, on December 11; and "Where do we go from here?" led by Gail Bass, MSW, LICSW, on December 18. For more information call the Center for Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care at 528-8580.

For information on holiday gift and food programs please call Community Services at 528-1947, or the Family Center, after November 15. For Thanksgiving Baskets please call Community Services befor November 14. Also, fuel assistance applications are available at Community Services.

Many thanks are sent to all who contributed items and volunteered for the fifth annual Hands At Work show! We will add approximately $2000 to our emergency childcare fund.

During drop-in times at the Family Center, families are invited to use the playroom, clothing and toy exchange, and the lending library. We are seeking volunteers to assist with the clothing exchange on the following days: Mondays noon to 2 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays 3 to 5 p.m.; and Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to noon.

Here is our calendar.

Every Monday and Friday (except holidays) Play and Learn playgroup meets 9 a.m. to noon. Preregistration is required.

Every Tuesday, 11 a.m., Mother-Baby exercise class meets. Preregistration is required.

Every Wednesday and Thursday, Parent-Child playgroup, 9:30 a.m.

November 5. First aid and safety for children birth to six years. Led by Deborah Buccino, M.D., MACONY Pediatrics, and Jodi Tuller, PNP, Children's Health Program. Childcare available with advance notice.

November 5. Story time, Otis Public Library, story and activity for preschool children, led by Deborah O'Brien, 2:45 p.m., sponsored by the Otis Arts Council, and the Family Network of the Children's Health Program, Inc.

November 6. Attention Deficit Disorder paren education group begins, Center for Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care, fourth floor, Fairview Hospital, 6:30 p.m., led by Jodi Tuller, PNP. For information about area services for families of children with ADHD call 528-8580.

November 8. Story time, Sandisfield Public Library, story and activity for children birth to six years, led by Kathleen Bracken, 10 a.m., community room, sponsored by the Sandisfield Arts Council, and Family Network of the Children's Health Program, Inc.

November 10, 24 and December 8 and 15. Fathers workshops, 6:30 p.m.

November 12. Family Network Advisory Board meeting, noon, a light lunch will be provided. R.S.V.P. Claudette Callahan.

November 12. Multiple birth mothers meeting, 6 p.m.

November 13. Effective discipline workshop, led by Bob Boylston, MSW, Sandisfield preschool, Otis Town Hall, 9:30-11:30 p.m.

November 13. Attention deficit disorder parent education group, "What is ADHD?", 6:30 p.m., Center for Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care, fourth floor, Fairview Hospital, call 528-8580.

November 14. Turkey Day, McKee school, Gould Farm, 10 a.m., story and activity.

November 15. First anniversary open house at the Family Center. There will be a story, music, activities, and refreshments, 10 a.m.

November 15 and 16. Winter coat distribution by Task Force for Families and Children, Bear Care Center, noon - 4 p.m.

November 20. Attention deficit disorder parent education group, "Medication therapy for ADHD," led by Dennis Tresp, M.D., 6:30 p.m., Center for Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care, fourth floor, Fairview Hospital, call 528-8580.

November 21. Spanish story time, 5 p.m., led by Ana Vreeland.

November 27 and 28. Family Center will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

December 3. Boxwood holiday craft activity, make a tree or centerpiece., $10 fee for materials, led by Olympia Casivant, 6:30 p.m. Child care available with advance notice.

December 6. Children's holiday carfts for children through age six, 10 a.m.

December 17. What to do with your newborn? Information from the Children's Health Program departments, 6:30 p.m., child care available with advance notice.

December 19. Evergreen Day at Gould Farm, McKee school, activity and story, 10 a.m.

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PERSONAL NOTES

Congratulations to **Rebecca McTavish**, of Art School Road, who has been named a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist.

Readers of the November issue of *House and Garden* magazine should turn to page ninety six, where they will see a photo of **Gige O'Connell's** granddaughter hard at work. Five year old Margarete Foster is seen helping her uncle, Tom Christopher, who writes for the magazine, press apples for hard cider. They used an antique cider press which belonged to **Alice and Art Somers**, and was used by many generations of apple squeezers at Rock Ridge.

Nancy and David Brady of Stamford, Connecticut, have sent word of their daughter Karla Eileens's birth on October 1, 1997. The proud grandparents are **Karl and Shirley Quisenberry** of Bidwell Road.

Happy Birthday greetings this month go out to **Sudi Baker** and **Heather Ferrin** on November 2, to **Emily Jane McTavish** on November 8, to **Rebecca McTavish** on November 9, to **Andi Dunlop** on November 11, to **Mariah Olds** and **Kenny Pratt** on November 12, to **Cody Amstead** on November 18, to **Florence Brown, Jenny Brown, Gale Forbes and Kirsten Quisenberry** on November 25, to **Kerry Snyder** on November 26, and to **Nicole Amidon** on November 28.

Best wishes to Gerhild Kessler and Zachary Dickey who were married in Payne Springs, Texas, on September 27. Gerhild is the daughter of **Jane** and the late **Hans Kessler** of Main Road.

We enjoy hearing your news and passing on birthday and anniversary greetings. If you have any you would like to share, please drop me a line at P.O. Box 351, Monterey, MA 01245, or give me a call at 528-6691, preferably before the twelth of each month. Thank you so much.

— Ann Higgins

CALENDAR

Sundays, AA meetings 9 a.m., in the Monterey Firehouse, Main Road.

Friday, November 7, at 8 p.m., Vikki True and the Sweet Sisters of Mercy in concert at the United Church of Christ, Main Road. Cost: adults $10, children and seniors $8.

Saturday, November 8, at 8 p.m., "The Forgotten Language Tour" (see article page 10), United Church of Christ, Main Road. Admission is free.

Tuesday, November 11, the Town Hall will be closed in observance of Veteran's Day.

Saturday, November 22, Square and Contradancing 8:30-11:30 p.m., at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Joe Baker. All dances are taught and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments served at intermission. Adults $5, children $2. Information 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578

Sunday, November 23, at 10 a.m., Interfaith Thanksgiving service, United Church of Christ, Main Road.

Saturday, November 29, Hilltown Productions presents "Acoustic Music in the Round," 7:30 p.m., United Church of Christ, Main Rd. Suggested donation $10.

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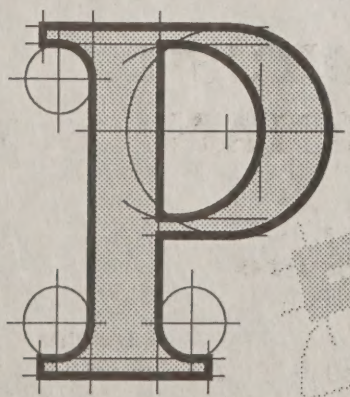

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Contributions from local artists this month: Bonner McAllester, p.15

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